

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 13-15, 17, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1, 13, 17, and 18 are independent claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejection in view of the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0225952 to Brown et al (hereafter "Brown publication"). Applicants respectfully point out that the Brown publication is the published version of U.S. Application No. 10/789,440, from which U.S. Patent No. 7,072,807 (hereafter "Brown patent") issued.

Filed concurrently herewith is a Petition to Accept an Unintentionally Delayed Claim Under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of U.S. Application No. 10/789,440 from which the Brown patent issued. Accordingly, Applicants submit that neither the Brown application nor the Brown patent constitute prior art with respect to the present application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

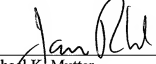
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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